

Index, Mount Greylock Interpretive Site Inventory

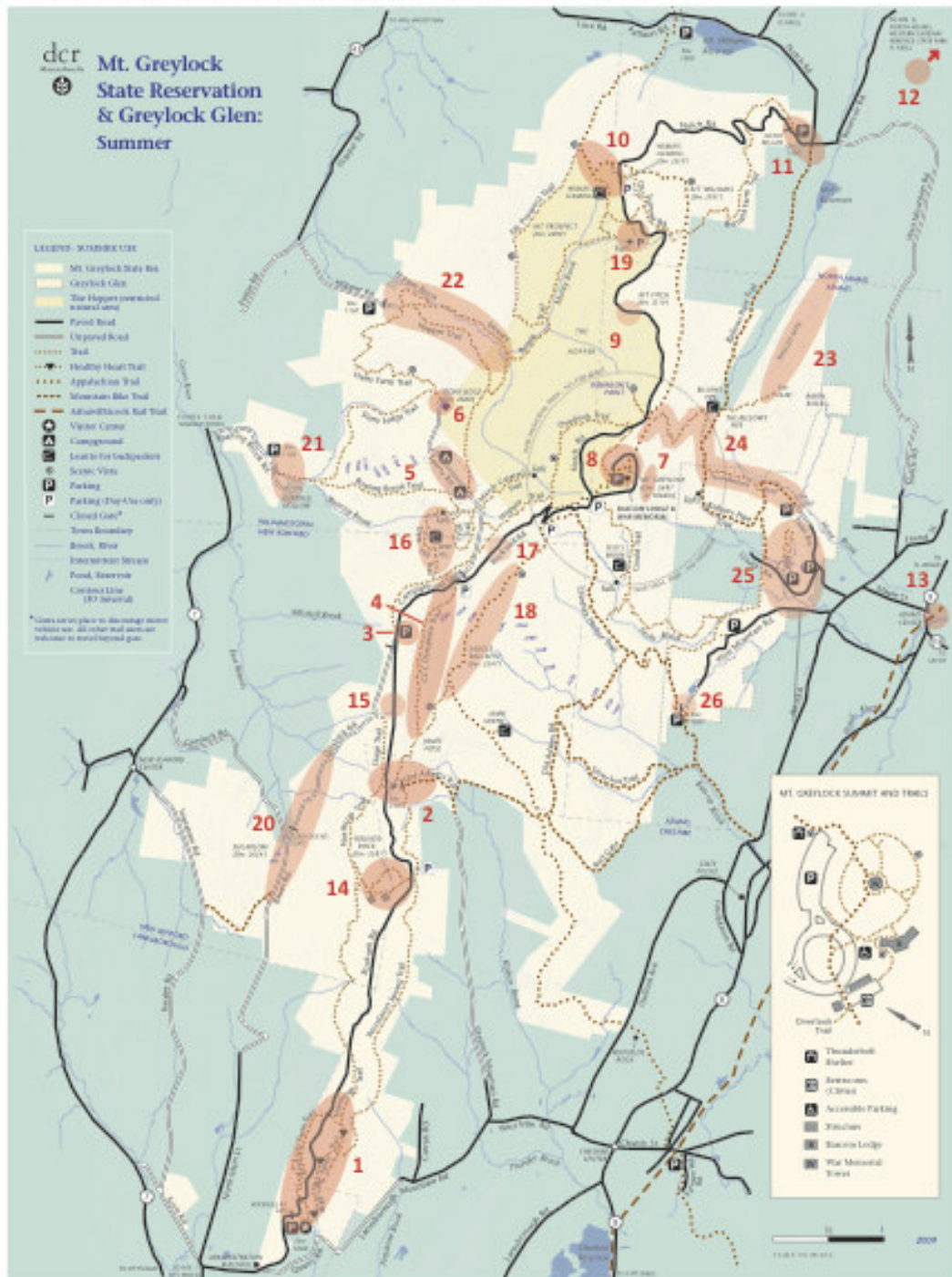
Phase 1

- 1 Visitors Center
- 2 Jones Nose
- 3 Campground Parking
- 4 CCC Dynamite Trail
- 5 Mount Greylock Campground
- 6 Stony Ledge
- 7 Adams Overlook
- 8 Summit
- 9 Fitch Vista-Notch Road
- 10 Wilbur's Clearing
- 11 Notch Road Gate-Bellows Pipe Trail
- 12 Western Gateway Heritage State Park
- 13 Adams Visitor Center

Phase 2

- 14 Rounds Rock
- 15 Ashfort
- 16 Deer Hill Trail
- 17 New Ashford Overlook
- 18 Appalachian Trail
- 19 Money Brook Falls
- 20 Sugarloaf and Greylock Road
- 21 Roaring Brook and Goodell Hollow
- 22 Haley Farm-The Hopper
- 23 Ragged Mountain
- 24 Thunderbolt Trail
- 25 Greylock Glen
- 26 Cheshire Harbor Trail-West Mountain Road

A. Mount Greylock Interpretive Site Inventory Map



Key

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Visitor Center-Bradley Farm Interp. Trail | 14 | Rounds Rock |
| 2 | Jones Nose | 15 | Ashford |
| 3 | Campground Parking Area | 16 | Deer Hill Trail |
| 4 | CCC Dynamite Trail | 17 | New Ashford Overlook |
| 5 | Mount Greylock Campground | 18 | Appalachian Trail |
| 6 | Stony Ledge | 19 | Money Brook Falls |
| 7 | Adams Overlook | 20 | Sugarloaf and Greylock Road |
| 8 | Summit | 21 | Roaring Brook and Goodall Hollow |
| 9 | Fitch Vista-Notch Road | 22 | Haley Farm-Head of Hopper |
| 10 | Wilbur's Clearing-Tall Spruces | 23 | Ragged Mountain |
| 11 | Notch Road Gate-Bellows Pipe Trail | 24 | Thunderbolt Trail |
| 12 | Western Gateway Heritage State Park | 25 | Greylock Glen |
| 13 | Adams Visitor Center | 26 | Cheshire Harbor Trail-West Mountain Road |

Interpretive Themes

A. Primary Theme I: Mount Greylock's geological formation is a very old story that we can see and touch.

1. **Secondary Theme I:** What was once the bottom of a sea is now the top of a mountain.
2. **Secondary Theme II:** Erosion wore away the sea bottom at different rates in different places, leaving Mount Greylock to stand alone.
3. **Secondary Theme III:** Ice Age glaciers merely scratched the surface of the mountain.

B. Primary Theme II: Visitors to Mount Greylock Encounter an Ecosystem Unlike Any Other in Massachusetts.

1. **Secondary Theme I:** The boreal forest on the summit takes visitors back in time and far to the north.
2. **Secondary Theme II:** Greylock's elevation and climate affected its flora and fauna.
3. **Secondary Theme III:** Human impacts and climate change affected the mountain's natural habitats.

C. Primary Theme III: Mount Greylock has Long Been an Opportunity and Attraction for Human Beings.

1. **Secondary Theme I:** River valleys around the mountain provided travel routes for native people, but scant evidence of habitation remains.
2. **Secondary Theme II:** Greylock sustained 18th and 19th century farmers and inspired artists and naturalists.
3. **Secondary Theme III:** Destructive land use of this icon led to a movement to protect the mountain for posterity.
4. **Secondary Theme IV:** Greylock is first protected by private interests, then recovers and flourishes under state management and federal programs.

Phase 1

Site 1

Visitor Center

Location:

Southern-most portion of State Reservation, on Rockwell Road in Lanesborough.

Description:

The Visitor Center is the primary information and orientation site for visitors to Mount Greylock. Built in 1972, the Visitor Center is located within a mix of fields and woods and offers a spectacular panoramic view south across the Berkshire Hills and the Taconics (1,660 ft. elev.). Wooded areas are mostly northern hardwoods inter-dispersed with red oak and white pine.

Seasonal Accessibility:

The Visitor Center is accessible and utilized by the public year-round for park orientation, restroom facilities, drinking water, local tourism information, and cultural/natural history resource exhibits. Regular daily hours of operation are kept, dependent on available staffing, usually 8:30am-5pm in summer and 9am-4:30pm in winter. It is wheelchair accessible. The area used by hikers for trail access to the *Bradley Farm Interpretive Trail* and other points, and backpackers on extended overnight trips. In winter, visitors use this point for seasonal recreation: snowshoeing, back-country skiing and snowmobiling. Special events, concerts and personal interpretive programming presently occur here. The site offers 84 parking spaces for day-use, overnight and large events.

Interpretive Significance:

Visitor Orientation. The Visitors Center provides recreational, and resource information for the visitor, as well as tourist information and orientation to the region and other state parks. Current exhibits include has an excellent relief model of the mountain range (a focal point), a hands-on nature discovery room for families, regional and opportunity for additional exhibits.

Bradley Farm Interpretive Trail. This area provides a comparative and contrasting look at **forest succession**, examine landscape settlement patterns tied to the local agrarian economy: stone walls, crops and influence of livestock such as Spanish Merino Sheep, important to the region's wool mills in the mid 1800s.

Scenic value. This vantage point provides an excellent view of the Housatonic River Valley watershed to the south providing opportunities for the concept of watershed, geology, tectonics and glaciation of the region.

Heritage Legacy. *Bill Tague's Berkshires* photography exhibit provides an opportunity to compare and contrast historic images of recreational sites in the Berkshire Region from the period 1950-1990.



Fig. 1 The Visitor Center on Rockwell Road at the southern entrance to the State Reservation. It has a fine vantage point of the Berkshire Region to the south.



Fig. 2 This kiosk at the edge of the Visitors Center parking lot provides information on the Bradley Farm Interpretive Trail (loop) and a trailhead to the rest of the park via the Northrup and Woodason Spring Trails.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes, family programs, school groups, environmental education workshops, special events and concerts, roving and informal interpretation
Non-personal: 1) orientation welcome wayside panel (general park information), 2) self guided interpretive trail/Healthy Heart Trail and wayside interpretive panel
visitor center exhibits, DCR Park Passport box mounted on welcome wayside

Site 2

Jones Nose

Location: Rockwell Road, four miles north of the Visitors Center. Site intersects with Jones Nose Trail, Woodason Spring Trail, Northrup Trail and Old Adams Road.

Description: Jones Nose is a promontory below Saddleball Mountain beginning at the parking lot at 2,350' elev., and rising up to 2,700' elev. Lower portion of Jones Nose are mostly open field condition to early succession copses, enclosed by northern hardwood forest.

Seasonal Accessibility: Area is accessible by automobile May-November. The day-use parking lot can accommodate about 20 cars. Accessible by foot trail year-round, bicycle as conditions permit, snowmobile in winter. This area provides access to various hiking trails.

Interpretive Significance:

1. Upland habitat restoration program site.

Jones Nose through the Upland Habitat Restoration Program in conjunction between MassWildlife and DCR is ranked as a high priority for early-successional habitat management because of its historic context as a high elevation open meadow, its aesthetic qualities, and primarily for its capacity as habitat for endangered species (Mourning Warbler, SC). This project will maintain the open nature of 27.5 acres on Jones Nose. Because of these conditions this an excellent location for wildflowers and blueberries.

2. Significant birding and butterfly area. As a result of the high elevation meadow this area is a known and popular area for observation between June and September.

3. Farm-Tavern and Coach Road site. This site contains the archeological remains of the Bennett or Mrs. G. Fiske house site (c1790-1858); this site may or may not be related to the site of early settler Seth Jones' house site (c1790), for whom legend has it this knob was named in resemblance to his prominent nose. This was a waypoint on the coach road leading from Cheshire over to New Ashford and then and points west. Evidence of multiple wagon ruts mark the roadbed passing through here.

4. Scenic value. This vantage point provides an excellent views to the south and over to the Berkshire Hills, Taconics and Catskills providing opportunities for the concept of watershed, geology, tectonics and glaciation of the region.



Figs. 3 & 4 The abandoned pasture at Jones' Nose prior to clearing (top), and during the summer following clearing (bottom). This old pasture will be maintained via periodic mowing. (photos from [source])

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* formal interpretive programs, guided hikes, school groups
Non-personal: one wayside interpretive panel (general park information), self-guided school groups

Site 3

Campground Parking

Location: Rockwell Road, 5 miles from Visitor Center

Description: A former gravel pit (2,420' elev.), following the reclassification of the campground to backpacking facility in 2008 this area was established as an overnight parking area for the campground via the Campground Trail (1.3 miles distance). Serves as overflow parking for day-use hikers unable to park at CCC Dynamite Trailhead.

Seasonal Accessibility: Area is accessible by automobile May-November, bicycle as conditions permit, snowmobile in winter. Foot trail access to the Campground Trail. Parking spaces for about 35 cars.

Interpretive Significance: This area has no immediate interpretive significance, other than a nearby dry-laid stone box culvert on Rockwell Road over Mitchell Brook, built by the CCC in the mid 1930s; this is not readily visible or easily accessible to visitors. However, the Campground's (Site 5) cultural and natural history can be represented at this site as it has adequate parking space and safe pedestrian access.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* self-guided school groups
 Non-personal: makeshift wayside panel provides park and camping information, however, no resource interpretation.



Fig. 5 This improvised bulletin board is located at the edge of the parking lot and head of the trail leading to the campground.

Site 4

CCC Dynamite Trail

Location: Intersection of Rockwell Road and Sperry Road.

Description: This is the first spectacular vista approaching the summit from Rockwell Road at 2,620' elev. This is a difficult intersection given the constraints on parking, the flow of traffic and blind corners. This area provides hiking access to the CCC Dynamite Trail and Sperry Road. The area also has a wheelchair accessible gravel path up to a picnic table/overlook with stone retaining wall.

Seasonal Accessibility: Area is accessible by automobile May-November, hiking year-round, bicycle as

conditions permit, snowmobile in winter. This area has very limited day-use parking (approximately 5-8 spaces) and is popular due to its proximity to foot trail



Fig. 6 Distant mountain views reward visitors who stop at the elevated overlook located near the head of the dynamite trail.

access to Stony Ledge and the Summit. Additional parking along the shoulder of Sperry Road up to the gate is limited, about 4 additional vehicles.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Scenic vista.** This is the most immediate feature, and is the first significant roadside scenic vista approaching the summit by Rockwell Road. The view from here looks out across New Ashford and Williamstown to the Taconic Range.
2. **Civilian Conservation Corps.** Nearby, on the CCC Dynamite Trail, are the remains of 3 tin-covered double-walled boxes used by the CCC to store dynamite and detonators for use in the road construction in the mid 1930s. This area also provides an opportunity to discuss the work of the CCC and the camp location on Sperry Road, otherwise not accessible by automobile.
3. **Sperry Road culvert.** This impressive stone-faced culvert crossing was first a wooden bridge for carriage access, built about 1896, and later improved about 1907 when the Commissioner's Road was built. However, it was significantly reconstructed by the CCC in the mid 1930s for automobiles with fill and stone facing. The culvert was rebuilt in 2008, with a concrete core and simulating the rustic construction style of the CCC.
4. **Wildflowers.** The CCC Dynamite Trail passes through a band of limestone/marble which creates a rich soil for wildflowers. The trail is fairly level and easy so it presents a good opportunity for viewing.



Fig. 7 Rockwell Road crosses the recently rebuilt Sperry Brook culvert at Sperry Road.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes, school groups

Site 5

Mount Greylock Campground

Location: Sperry Road.

Description: This area is along the gently sloping saddle (2,400' elev.) between Greylock and Stony Ledge (Bald Mountain). It is a mix of northern hardwood and red spruce forest. Roaring Brook forms along the south flank.

Seasonal Accessibility: No vehicular access. Area is accessible by hiking year-round, bicycle as conditions permit, snowmobile in winter. Relatively easy grades and road surface of Sperry Road presents the opportunity for wheelchair and passive recreational access.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Agricultural history.** About 1804 Almon Harrison established here part of a 1,300 acre farm. He built a "rude" road (the Hopper Trail) from the past the Bacon Farm in the Hopper to his land on the saddle along Bald Mountain (Stony Ledge). *"He cleared the land on the top, burnt the timber, raised at first great crops of wheat, built a log house for tenants by the side of Camp Brook ... and built a large barn to the north of the house..."* The farm was sold it to his brother-in-law Stephen Bacon in 1827 (or Stephen Kellogg in 1826), and subsequently to his widow Margaret Bacon who maintained it as a farm until about 1850.

2. **The Alpine Club/Camp Fern.** Albert Hopkins, Williams College Professor of Mathematics and Natural History, forms the Alpine Club c1863-1865, predecessor to the Williams Outing Club (1915). It is the first organized hiking and nature study club in the United States. The purpose of the club was to *"to explore the interesting places in the vicinity, to become acquainted, to some extent at least, with the natural history of the localities, and also to improve the pedestrian powers of the members."* For the next few years, the Alpine Club led trips every week or two, and improved the landscape by marking new hiking paths, and establishing Camp Fern on the former Bacon Farm. Professor Hopkins found great delight in the Alpine Club trips, in part because they allowed him to shape the young people on the trip to become spiritually awake. Later, former members, most notably Samuel Scudder, played an active role in the founding of the Appalachian Mountain Club in 1876.
3. **Civilian Conservation Corps.** CCC camp SP-7 site, 107 Company, 1933-41. The camp supported a year-round cadre of about 200 men who performed the conservation and recreational work in the reservation. This was a period of significant physical improvement providing forest improvement and protection and resources for recreation.
4. **March Cataract Falls.** From the campground, at the end of the 0.8 mile March Cataract Trail is a 30' high fan-type waterfall. Perhaps the premier waterfall in the park. In c1864 March Cataract Falls on Bacon Brook and Wawbeek (Wabeck)/Sky Falls (Money Brook Falls) among other places on the mountain (such as Wilbur and Bacon Parks), are named by Albert Hopkins, John Bascom, Arthur Latham Perry and the Alpine Club.
5. **Transitional Forest.** The forest along this saddle consists mostly of "old field" red spruce of about acres in size. Polyporus Schwienitzii, a fungus noted in 1968, which may still be present, causes the spruce to be subject heart rot, subject to occasional wind damage. This is great place to explore the



Fig. 8 Remains of the former CCC drafting hut at the campground.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes, self-guided school groups, camper programs/campfires
Non-personal: 1) wayside interpretive panel (CCC), 2) Kiosk (general and camping information)

Site 6

Stony Ledge

Location: at the (west) end of Sperry Road

Description: Stony Ledge offers a spectacular vantage point (2,580' elev.) to view the Greylock Massif and the Hopper valley. It is a rock outcropping emerging from a northern red oak/hardwood forest.

Seasonal Accessibility: No vehicular access. Area is accessible by hiking year-round from Haley Farm Trail, Stony Ledge Trail, and Roaring Brook trail/Sperry Road, bicycle as conditions permit, snowmobile in winter. Relatively easy grades and road surface of Sperry Road presents the opportunity for wheelchair and passive recreational access. Also see site 9, Fitch Vista.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **The Hopper.** Physically, the Hopper is an impressive scenic view. As you look over to the summit over a mile away and down about 1,000 feet to the bottom of the Hopper. This aspect is best described as "seeing the mountain from the mountain." However, it also has significance as a 1,600 acre

designated Natural Area; its *National Natural Landmark* old growth red spruce varying in age from 150-200+ years old; and a representative *Natural Area*. These programs provide certain restriction on activities to provide protections of a natural state to encourage rare species. This is a great position to see the forest transition from base to summit from northern hardwoods to boreal.

2. **Geologic history.** At this location not only can you see the bedrock schist, but you can visualize the formation of the mountain and its particular contours.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes, roving interpretation



Fig. 9 View from Stony Ledge

Site 7

Adams Overlook

Location: Summit Road

Description: This is a dramatic scenic vista pull-off at 3,288' elev. It has capacity for about 10 cars parallel parked. Renovated during the Historic Parkway Restoration in 2007-08 is now a wooden railing separating parking from the viewing area, allowing pedestrians to get out of their vehicle and safely take in the scene.

Seasonal Accessibility: Area is accessible by automobile May-November, bicycle as conditions permit, snowmobile in winter. This area is a temporary pull-off and can accommodate about 8 vehicles parallel parked. No trail access.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Scenic view** This impressive 180° view looks east over the town of Adams and the Berkshire Hills to points some 60-70 miles distant.
2. **Industrial/agricultural history (Adams).** Here one can look down into Adams and see the former mill buildings and homes that utilized resources from Mount Greylock, charcoal, sheep and timber. Also visible is the agricultural landscape that once extended over much of the view, now reforested.
3. **The Glen.** This was the proposed site of a tramway, ski area, golf course and resort in the 1960s-1970s, now being reclaimed by nature. Only Gould Farm remains from the former agricultural use of The Glen. From this aspect the visitor can envision the things that might have been.



Fig. 10 Adam's center as it appears from the Adam's overlook.

Interpretive Modes: Neither personal nor non-personal interpretation currently takes place here. This site is conducive to non-personal interpretation only.

Site 8, Summit

Location: The top of Mount Greylock, via Summit Road

Description: The summit of Mount Greylock is the highest point in Massachusetts at 3,491' in elevation. It contains the state's only sub-alpine (boreal forest) and is a sensitive ecological area. At the same time this is the area that gets the most impact from visitor use from May through October, as it is the prime destination for the Greylock experience. On account of its significant architectural features, the summit has been listed as a National Historic District.

Seasonal Accessibility: Area is accessible by automobile May-November, bicycle as conditions permit, snowmobile and snowshoe or skiing in winter, and hiking year-round. Bascom Lodge is open from mid-May through October 31. The War Memorial Tower is open weekends mid-May to Memorial Day and Labor Day through Columbus Day, and daily Memorial Day to Labor Day. The summit parking lot can accommodate 80 vehicles, day-use and/or overnight. During some weekends (particularly Columbus Day) the parking lot and traffic can reach capacity, requiring staff coordination, a situation called "Greylock Gridlock". The Thunderbolt (Ski) Shelter is available year-round, overnight camping here is prohibited, and it receives intense use during the winter from snowmobilers.



Fig. 11 "Quote Stones" are located in several locations on the summit.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Sub-alpine Forest.** Perhaps the prime summit feature overlooked by most visitors is the forest ecology. Many visitors do not realize the forest transition that has occurred between the base and the summit. This transition is what ornithologist William Brewster remarked in 1888 as *“a Canadian Island rising from an Alleghenian Sea.”* This is the state’s only Sub-alpine forest and hosts both rare and endangered state-listed species. Often visitors are surprised by the climactic change that corresponds as well; a 10° drop in temperature from base to summit, and sometimes covered by clouds. It has been speculated that climate change over time may ultimately alter the composition of this sub-alpine forest.
2. **National Historic District.** The summit above the 3,100’ elev. (approximately 220 acres) is a designated National Historic District by virtue of architectural and landscape features of Bascom Lodge, Thunderbolt Shelter and the War Memorial Tower. A commemorative bronze plaque is mounted in the stone wall along the walkway.

- a. **War Memorial Tower.** This appx. 92’ tall tower also known as the Massachusetts Veterans War Memorial Tower, was completed in 1932 and dedicated in June 1933 to commemorate all men and women from the Commonwealth as a tribute their courage, endurance, loyalty and self-sacrifice, wherever these qualities have been shown, in the uniform of the state or nation. It is commonly (and mistakenly) referred to as a lighthouse, the intent of which



Fig. 12 & 13 Bascom Lodge (left) and the beacon at the crest of the War Memorial tower.

is actually a beacon or perpetual light in memory. provides excellent 360° view of western New Engl; 90 miles distant.

- b. **Bascom Lodge.** Begun in 1932 and completed in 1938. The structure was designed by architect Joseph McArthur Vance and built by the Greylock Commission and the CCC. Indicative of period “parkitecture,” with its rambling low-slung wood shingle stone and spruce/oak construction. It replaced a previous “rude” 1902 summit house which had burned in 1929. This structure fulfilled John Bascom’s vision to provide a comfortable building for the use, shelter and refreshment of persons frequenting the reservation. The lodge currently is operated by the Bascom Lodge Group under a 25-year Historic Curatorship and offers lodging and meals
- c. **Thunderbolt (Ski) Shelter.** The Thunderbolt Shelter was built by the CCC in 1940 to provide winter shelter for skiers and a picnic shelter in summer. It features the distinctive CCC “parkitecture,” a low-slung wood shingled roof, stone walls, hewn beams and an interesting four bay bench/fireplace combination. Due to its location and proximity to the parking lot, this feature is commonly a target for vandalism or abuse.

3. **Appalachian Trail.** The AT, a 2,175 mile-long footpath from Georgia to Maine, passes over the summit. A commemorative plaque recognizes this fact as well as bronze trail markers in the path.
4. **Thunderbolt Ski Trail.** The Thunderbolt ski trail begins here at the summit, beside the Thunderbolt Shelter and along the Appalachian Trail. Also see Site 23, Thunderbolt Ski Trail, phase 2.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes, school groups, special events and concerts, roving and informal interpretation, stargazing.
Non-personal: quote stone rocks scattered around summit paths; view stones at three location; bronze plaques on Bascom Lodge (2), eastern vista (1), Thunderbolt Shelter (2), War Memorial Tower (2) and in the observation platform (4); Thunderbolt Ski Trail plaque in parking lot wall; and Rudy Konieczny commemorative plaque inside Thunderbolt Shelter.

Site 9, Fitch Vista

Location: Notch Road

Description: Fitch Vista at 2,840' elev. is named for the nearby promontory Mount Fitch on whose flank this site is located featuring a dramatic 180° view of The Hopper valley and Greylock summit. Fitch Vista was built during the CCC road construction as a pull-off on the auto road. The vista had collapsed c.1985-90 and was restored during the Historic Parkway Rehabilitation Project in 2007-08, once again offering an excellent scenic view point.

Seasonal Accessibility: Area is accessible by automobile May-November, foot trail year-round, bicycle as conditions permit, snowmobile in winter. This area is a temporary pull-off and can accommodate about 12-15 vehicles, parallel parked. No trail access.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **The Hopper.** Physically the Hopper is an impressive scenic view. However, it also has significance as a 1,600 acre designated Natural Area; its National Natural Landmark old growth red spruce; and a representative Natural Area.
2. **Geologic.** This location offers perhaps the best cut-away profile of metamorphic folding to explore the formation of the mountain and the Taconic Orogeny.



Fig. 14 Fitch overlook looking north.

Interpretive Modes: Neither personal nor non-personal interpretation takes place here. This site is conducive to non-personal interpretation only. Other than site 6 Stony Ledge, which is accessible by hiking/biking only, this location can best cover the interpretive topics of The Hopper and Geology.

Site 10 Wilbur's Clearing

Location: Notch Road

Description: a saddle at 2,300' elev. between Mounts Williams and Prospect forested with red spruce.

Seasonal Accessibility: Area is accessible by automobile May-November, foot trail year-round, bicycle as conditions permit, snowmobile in winter. This area provides access to visitors from the parking area to various hiking trails including the Appalachian Trail. 12 day-use parking spaces for vehicles.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Transitional Spruce Forest.** This is a dense stand of red spruce formerly known as “Tall Spruce” that grew up in succession of Wilbur’s pasture here. This is a great place to hear and see summer resident birds Olive-sided Flycatcher, Winter Wren and warblers: Blackburnian, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped and perhaps migrating Bay-breasted, Cape May among others.
2. **Appalachian Trail.** Nearby the Appalachian Trail crosses Notch Road which provides access to scenic vista at Mount Prospect, or 3 mile one-way hike to summit.

Agricultural-Industrial. Jeremiah Wilbur owned 1,600 acres along the northern flank of the mountain following the Adams town line south to Money Brook and west to the top of Mount Prospect, “in sight of Williams College” (Browne, ND), including clearing the shoulder between Mts. Williams and Prospect for pasture including his several acre pasture at “Wilbur’s Clearing” and the summit of Greylock. It is thought he constructed a trail or rough road up to the Clearing and a wooden stockade there to protect his livestock from predators at night. In addition it is thought he also built a 12x12 eight-foot deep log pen animal trap. Also found here is a rough footing/foundation and pipes remain perhaps related to the boiler for Arnold’s steam saw mill (c1898).



Fig. 15 The Appalachian Trail passes through Wilbur’s Clearing and the pull off includes parking for several vehicles.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes
 Non-personal: Kiosk with wayside panel (general park information)

Site 11

Notch Road Gate-Bellows Pipe Trail

Location: Intersection of Reservoir Road and Notch Road and Bellows Pipe Trail, North Adams.

Description: This area extends from Notch Road up to the saddle of Bellows Pipe. A good portion along the Bellows Pipe Trail within the City of North Adams watershed. The Notch Gate is on state property.

Seasonal Accessibility: Accessible by foot or vehicle year-round. Bellows Pipe Trail is also a designated mountain bike trail. Both day-use and overnight parking is permitted at the Notch Gate lot, 40 car capacity. No parking is permitted at the Bellows Pipe Trailhead.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Early settlement.** This is where Jeremiah Wilbur settled in the 1790s. He had a 1,600 acre “fine farm” that included the northern portion of the park and summit of Mount Greylock. He had listed 40 head of cattle and 500 Merino or Saxony Sheep. His meadows produced one hundred tons of hay (1800). He also owned a tavern and three mills-saw, cider & grist on Notch Brook. Area includes sites of archeological significance: P. Eddy or D.P. Eddy house site (c1840-1885); Seth Wilbur house site (c1840-1885); L. Wilbur house site (c1880-1906).
2. **Henry David Thoreau.** Henry David Thoreau climbed Mount Greylock in about mid-July of 1844 via the Bellows Pipe Trail. It is recounted in his book, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, under the chapter *Tuesday*. Direct references are made in his text to the houses and their occupants (Rebecca Darling Eddy and Seth Wilbur) who he encountered on his way up this trail.
3. **Notch Road.** Notch Road was perhaps the earliest developed approach to the summit of Mount Greylock reputed to have been cut by Jeremiah Wilbur about 1790 as access to his land grant and upland pasture. In 1860 Notch Road was improved by North Adams citizens and Adams lumberman Henry J. Arnold (circa b.1833-d.1905) from the Notch to the spring below the summit to accommodate tourists in single open wagons. Passengers then dismounted and climbed the last half-mile, known as Misery Hill (AT), to the summit.
4. **Bernard’s in the Notch Ski Area.** A hike up and ski down slope in the c.1938-early 1950s. Rope tow installed after 1945.
5. **Notch Cemetery.** (City of North Adams) which contains 19th century area inhabitants and the still standing (2007) gravestones of early Notch settler Jeremiah Wilbur.



Fig. 16 The parking area at the Notch Road gate, the northern entrance to the park.

Interpretive Modes: Neither personal nor non-personal interpretation takes place here. However, a Kiosk with interpretive wayside panel (general park information) was formerly located here, damaged by vandalism and removed.

Site 12, Western Gateway Heritage State Park

Location: 115 State Street, Intersection of MA Route 8 and Furnace Street Bypass in downtown North Adams

Description: Unlike all the other sites, this is an urban setting at the northern foot of the mountain. The site is a former railroad yard, restored in 1985, as an urban redevelopment for mixed economic and public uses. Site contains a collection of historic industrial buildings on the National Register of Historic Places including DCR Visitor Center, North Adams Museum of History and Science (North Adams Historical Society), Northern Berkshire Community Television, Freight Yard Pub and others.

Seasonal Accessibility: Accessible year-round. The Visitor Center is accessible and utilized by the public year-round for restroom facilities, local tourism information, and cultural history exhibits. Regular daily hours of operation are kept dependent on available staffing, daily during summer, Thursday-Monday during the winter. Facility is Wheelchair accessible. Parking is municipal, spread out across the site and can accommodate about 100 vehicles.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Industrial history.** The main story at the Visitor Center is the construction of the Hoosac Tunnel (1848-75) and North Adams' railroading history, but also covered is the related manufacturing and community heritage. The Museum of History and Science covers much of this related industrial story as well but also more about the social fabric of the city.
2. **Greylock Park Association.** Although many North County businessmen were involved, North Adams was the formative center of the Greylock Park Association (GPA) in 1885. The GPA was instrumental in purchasing the burnt-over 400 acres at the summit. As the business of running the park became a financial burden, the GPA gifted the land to the State in 1898 to become the first wilderness state park in Massachusetts. During this early park period many liveries in North Adams, Adams and Williamstown offered their services to go by coach or wagon for an outing to the summit via the Notch Road.



Interpretive Modes: This site is outside of the administrative unit of Mount Greylock State Reservation. However, both personal and non-personal interpretation is provided through Western Gateway Heritage State Park Visitor Center: *Personal:* interpretive programming, special events, school groups
Non-personal: Visitor Center exhibits, MH&S exhibits

Fig. 17 Heritage Park in North Adams is located at the beginning of the scenic parkway.

Site 13, Adams Visitor Center

Location: 3 Hoosac Street, Downtown Adams

Description: Built in 2003, this Visitor Center is owned by the Town of Adams and operated in partnership with the Berkshire Visitors Bureau. It sits in the center of the former industrial heart of Adams, amongst immense brick mills, and has a spectacular view looking up to the summit of Mount Greylock.

Seasonal Accessibility: Accessible year-round. The Visitor Center schedule varies seasonally and dependant on staffing. It is wheelchair accessible. Parking lot is municipal and can accommodate about 90 vehicles. Street parking is also available.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Industrial history.** As evidence of the surrounding former mill buildings, this reflects on the industrial use of the mountain, for sheep, papermaking, charcoal and timber.
2. **View of Greylock.** The view of Mount Greylock from here in Adams is dramatic and a focal point in the landscape. There is presently a webcam positioned to look up to the summit of Mount Greylock: <http://www.berkshires.org/About/BerkshireWebCams/WebCam1/tabid/426/Default.aspx>

Interpretive Modes: As this site is outside of the administrative unit of Mount Greylock State Reservation, neither personal nor non-personal interpretation takes place here. However, this site has been used for a Junior Ranger program utilizing access to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.

Phase 2

Site 14, Rounds Rock

Location: Rockwell Road, three miles north of the Visitors Center.

Description: Rounds Rock (2,582' elev.) is a promontory with dramatic views on its southern and western flanks. Named for Jabez Rounds (c1790) who had once lived, cleared and farmed this 300 acres land grant.

Seasonal Accessibility: Seasonal access from Rockwell Road by automobile from late-May through November 1, by snowmobile in winter. Year-round access by hiking. Day-use parking space for about 12 cars.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Scenic value.** Two scenic vistas look south, east and west across the Berkshire Hills, Taconic and over to the Catskills. Perhaps most prominent now are a series of ten 1.5 megawatt wind turbines installed in 2009-2010 on Brodie Mountain to the west, providing an opportunity to discuss alternative energy and the environment.
2. **Northern New England ecology.** A mix of red spruce, beech and birch woodlands, thin soil cover in parts is heath-like, providing the appearance of northern New England ecology. Blueberries abound here.
3. **Plane wreck.** On the north side of the Rounds Rock Trail is the 1948 plane wreck site of a twin engine war surplus Cessna, flown by pilot John Newcomb, who perished in the crash. The plane was delivering newspapers from New York to Albany when it crashed during a severe late night thunderstorm. Bits of metal frame from are still visible. A memorial cairn also marks the site. This is one of eight known plane wrecks on the mountain, and the easiest one to hike to.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes, school groups

Site 15, Ashfort

Location: At intersection of Rockwell Road and New Ashford/Greylock Road .

Description: Site is an opening in the forested canopy along Rockwell Road at 2,375' elev. It has stone monument built in 1975 to commemorate site of supposed Ashfort.

Seasonal Accessibility:

Site is accessible by automobile from late-May through November 1. Seasonal access by snowmobile or mountain bike and year-round by hiking. Day-use parking space for 5 cars.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Early settlement site and monument, Ash Fort.** Perhaps about 1760 a stockade house made out of ash logs was built on or near the present day Greylock and Rockwell Roads in New Ashford, along a transportation route. The site contained a spring and was lived in for at least a winter, since the snow was melted and the water climbed out through the chimney. This "new ash fort" was supposedly a part of a series of small forts



Fig. 18 Ashfort

to protect the nearby stage coach route. From higher elevations signal beacons would be lit to indicate trouble ahead. This is rumored to be the origin of the settlement and thus the source of the name of New Ashford. However historians have not made note or contested the actual existence of such a structure. More accurate information is needed to confirm and substantiate the story.

2. **CCC Water hole.** This attractive stone lined pond was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in about 1936 for use in protection of the forest from fire.



Fig. 19 CCC Water hole

Interpretive Modes: Neither personal nor non-personal interpretation takes place here. However, many visitors are curious about the significance of the Ashford monument.

Site 16, Appalachian Trail

Location: Located on Rockwell Road on switch-backs.

Description: This area at 3,030' elev. demonstrates the transition area from northern hardwoods into the boreal forest.

Seasonal Accessibility: Seasonal access by automobile from late-May through November 1, by snowmobile in winter. Year-round access by hiking.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Boreal Forest.** This area provides good access along the AT toward Saddleball through a prime example of the boreal forest and nearby sphagnum moss bog. Here the forest canopy is dense habitat for birds like Canada warblers, Hermit and Swainson's thrushes, Yellow-bellied flycatcher. Examples of boreal wildflowers are found too: Rosy Twisted-stalk, Clintonia or Bluebead lily, Wood sorrel.
2. **Appalachian Trail.** Since it was routed and cut over Mount Greylock by 1929 the AT has become something of lore. This area provides a good access point to either hike to the summit or out along the Saddleball ridge to experience a portion of the AT. Visitors may encounter AT through-hikers along the trail mostly from June through September. Also see:
<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/atf/cf/%7BD25B4747-42A3-4302-8D48-EF35C0B0D9F1%7D/MacKaye.pdf>



Fig. 20 A hiker enjoys the Appalachian Trail en route to the summit of Greylock.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes

Site 16, Deer Hill Trail

Location: Between Roaring Brook Trail, Sperry Road and the Campground Trail.

Description: Access to this site is by foot only. This steep ravine on the western flank of Mount Greylock contains some excellent trailside examples of old-growth trees and Deer Hill Falls.

Seasonal Accessibility: Foot trail access only, year-round. Seasonal access to parking by automobile from late-May through November 1, by snowmobile in winter. Parking to access this site is best done from site 3 Campground Parking, or site 4 CCC Dynamite Trail.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Old-growth.** Within the Heart of Greylock, a wild and steep ravine perhaps coined by John Bascom, may be found some individual tree specimens of considerable size: Eastern hemlock, Black cherry and Yellow Birch.
2. **Deer Hill Falls.** Deer Hill Falls lies deep within the Heart of Greylock. It is a picturesque horsetail-type cascade about 30 feet in height. Highly seasonal, low volume perhaps best viewed in April and May and after a period of heavy rainfall.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes

Site 19, Sugarloaf and Greylock Road

Location: Between Ingraham and Bauer Roads and along Greylock Road in New Ashford.

Description: Sugarloaf is an isolated (2,030' elev.) promontory from the Greylock massif. It is a wooded hill with some exposed bedrock slopes on its southeast flank. It does not offer impressive scenic vistas when the foliage is leafed out. In a valley at its eastern base and along Bauer Road (1,600 ft. elev.) is a wetland and open body of water generally and occasionally enlarged as a result of beaver activity. This wetland is the headwater of the East Branch of the Green River which is in the Hoosic River Watershed. This area provides one of the few opportunities in the reservation (aside from Greylock Glen to observe a wetland habitat, beaver and potential for moose. This area was logged extensively in 1951 and 1957. No interpretive programming presently occurs here.

Seasonal Accessibility: This part of the reservation is not often visited by the public due to its lack of convenient access. Bauer Road (dirt) is not regularly maintained throughout; however Greylock Road (packed gravel) between is maintained and graded about every year. Greylock Road provides access from Route 7 in New Ashford up to Rockwell Road. A mountain bike trail connects Bauer Road to Ingraham Road, and a discontinued foot trail provides access up to the top of Sugarloaf.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Cellar holes and mill sites.** This area contains the remains of farms and mill sites from about the late 18th century through late 19th century. Known archeological sites include: A. Bauer farm house site (c1858-76); W. Couch house site (c1858); N. Wineheyser house and tub mill site (c1858);
2. **Industrial sites.** In the later part of the 19th century the area was logged extensively for charcoal fuel by the Lanesborough Iron Company, some distinctive charcoal pit features remain. Laneborough Iron Company had a charcoal burner house (c.1876) located along the New Ashford/Greylock Road.
3. **Nature study.** The 1967-68 Management Plan noted the potential of this area for self-guided or guided natural study, as well as the potential for transient camping. The Sugarloaf area was noted as having a wider variety of flora and fauna than any other part of the reservation of comparable size. This biodiversity was attributed to the 1851 and 1957 timber harvests in this area, which created a wider variety of vegetative cover and corresponding wildlife. Certainly this area has retained much of this initial park-like feeling but has since succeeded from being an open 20 acre open field and matured to hardwood forest in the past 55 years.

4. **CCC.** During the existence of the CCC on Greylock 1933-41, this was the primary access point between Pittsfield and the camp. Surface, grade and drainage improvements to Greylock road were made to accommodate this travel. Much of their distinctive stone culvert treatment remains visible.

Interpretive Modes: Neither personal nor non-personal interpretation takes place here.

Site 23, Thunderbolt Trail

Location: Starting at the Thunderbolt Shelter on the summit and ending at Thiel Road in Greylock Glen. 1934 and 1936 trail routes on lower section have been relocated or grown in.

Description: The Thunderbolt Trail was built by the CCC in 1934 to satisfy the desire to have a challenging ski run on Greylock. It drops steeply over 2,000 vertical feet in just under 2 miles from the summit to the base.

Seasonal Accessibility: The Thunderbolt is accessed either from the summit, from May-November 1, or year-round from the end of Thiel Road. It is a hiking trail in summer. The upper portion has been closed in 2007 due to trail erosion, and pending maintenance. Those hiking the lower portion are encouraged to alternatively use the Bellows Pipe Trail.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Ski history.** Soon after it was cut by the CCC in 1934, ski trains from New York and Boston were bringing thousands of weekend skiers to Adams. The Thunderbolt a rated class-A expert run became the site of numerous Massachusetts

downhill ski championship races and the site of the USEASA Championship races in 1938 and 1940, drawing international racers. Local skiers also frequented the slopes perfecting their skills which would be tested later as many enlisted in the famed 10th Mountain Division during World War II. Popularity of the backcountry ski trail waned as snowmaking and lifts became the norm. Its rebirth has recently come with the interest in retro-style skiing venues.



Fig. 21 Steep slopes and a twisting course challenged competitors in this 1930s image of the Thunderbolt Ski Trail.

Interpretive Modes: Neither personal nor non-personal interpretation takes place here.

Site 24, Greylock Glen

Location: at the eastern foot of Mount Greylock, between West Mountain Road, Gould and Thiel Roads in Adams.

Description: The Glen is a 1,063 acre state park adjacent to the reservation. Acquired by the state in 1985, the intention of this property was to create a regional economic facility in the form of a joint public-private development. The area is currently (as of 2006) the planning stages for a proposed Outdoor Recreation and

Environmental Education Center with the Town of Adams as the chosen developer. This area provides popular trailheads to approach the summit of Greylock.

Seasonal Accessibility: The Glen is accessible year-round from Gould Road or West Mountain Road. Other than two composting toilets and a shade pavilion there are no other services available here. Parking is available at multiple locations Thiel Road at two locations (about 15 vehicles), Gould Road at four locations (about 30+ vehicles) and West Mountain Road at two locations (about 20 vehicles).

Interpretive Significance:

1. Resort Development.

Beginning in 1953 a public-private venture began to plan to build a tramway to the summit of Greylock. By 1964 the impacts, extent and intent of this type of development had been challenged by a group of concerned citizens, was taken to court and resulted in the end of the tramway authority and the transfer of management of the reservation from county to state.

Continued interest in developing a ski area resulted in the buying up of private lands at the base of the mountain and throughout the 1960s and early 1970s proposed construction of a major resort. It almost materialized but lacked the financing. The remains of building foundations, ski lifts and lighting poles remain along the overgrown slopes.

2. Agricultural/Industrial History. Hidden throughout the Glen are remnants of the agricultural past, stonewalls, foundations overgrown and succeeding fields and old farm roads.

3. Peck's Falls. A series of dramatic falls. Legend has it that Daniel Shays may have tried to convince local farmers to join his rebellion (c1787) from secluded Pulpit Rock, adjacent to the lower falls. Charles Pierce Burton's boyhood adventure book series *The Boy's of Bob's Hill* uses this site as a setting for a mysterious cave.



Fig. 22 Greylock Glen is visible in the foreground and includes the small ponds and both open and forested land.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes, youth and family programs

Site 22, Ragged Mountain

Location: between Greylock Glen and the Bellows Pipe Trail

Description: Ragged Mountain is a promontory ridge parallel to the Greylock massif.

Seasonal Accessibility: Accessible by hiking only, year-round from the Bellows Pipe Trail in either Greylock Glen or from Notch Road Gate. There is one designated/blazed trail. Many former wood roads surround the base and gradually up the slopes, these are unmarked and may be disorienting to the inexperienced visitor. See site 24 The Glen, or site 11 Notch Road Gate-Bellows Pipe Trail for access.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Ragged Mt. Scenic View.** Selected views of Mount Greylock and Adams are available from the summit of Ragged Mt. and at other locations like Raven's Rock.
2. **Thoreau.** During Henry David Thoreau's hike up the Bellow's Pipe to Greylock in July of 1844, he climbed up the west face of Ragged Mountain to get a compass bearing on the summit, to which he bushwhacked the rest of the way.

Interpretive Modes: Neither personal nor non-personal interpretation takes place here.

Site 21, Haley Farm-The Hopper

Location: end of Hopper Road in Williamstown

Description: Haley Farm provides access to the mouth of the Hopper valley. The site is pastoral, located in APR farmland and adjacent north hardwood forest. The view from here up to the summit of mount Greylock is dramatic.



Fig. 23 Haley farm with the hopper as a dramatic backdrop.

Seasonal Accessibility: Accessible by vehicle year-round. Both day-use and overnight parking is permitted at Haley Farm lot, 40+ car capacity.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Agricultural history.** In 1761 Elkanah Parris, previously a soldier at Fort Massachusetts and his Quaker wife Grace settle a farmstead in the Hopper (later the Haley Farm). House burned c.1950.
2. **Natural/Cultural.** The Hopper is a distinctive valley surrounds on three sides by the flanks of Mounts Greylock, Prospect and Stony Ledge. In 1977 1,600 acres of the Hopper was designated by the society of American Foresters as a Natural Area
3. **Hopper Trail.** On May 12, 1830, the first Williams College 'Mountain Day.' Under the influence of college President Edward Dorr Griffin, being too old to hike, students construct (or improve the pre-existing road to the Bacon Farm) a three-mile long cart path (Hopper Trail) to the summit of Saddleback (Greylock) to allow Griffin to ride his horse to the top of the mountain.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes

Site 18, Money Brook Falls

Location: off Notch Road

Description: Money Brook Falls is a dramatic, but not heavily frequented, waterfall site. Access to the site is by a relatively short but steep foot trail.

Seasonal Accessibility: Access to this site is by foot only. Area is accessible by automobile May-November, foot trail year-round, bicycle as conditions permit, snowmobile in winter. 4 day-use parking spaces for vehicles.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Money Brook Falls and Counterfeiter Legend.** The falls here, accessed by a steep 0.75 mile hike from Notch Road, are a 70' total drop cascade-type. A story arose between 1765-83 (and as late as 1800) concerning the operation of counterfeiters somewhere along Money Brook milling out Spanish Dollars and perhaps Pine Tree Shillings (still in circulation at the time). Their tools were discovered by a hunter and they were forced to discontinue their operation. The culprits were never specified, although in 1786 Caleb Gardiner (of Hancock) was tried and hung in Albany for passing counterfeit Spanish dollars. This story resulted in the name "Money Brook."
2. **Williams Outing Club Cabin Site.** Harris Cabin is built by the Williams (College) Outing Club near Notch Road, for H.B. Harris in memory of his son 1931 Williams Graduate, Norman Waite Harris who was killed in an automobile accident. The cabin had a bunkroom for eight persons and loft to accommodate others. The main room had a large fireplace with bronze memorial plaque mounted on it, small kitchen and wood stove. The building burned down by vandalism in Oct. 1962.
3. **Old Notch/Summit Road.** By the early 1800s Jeremiah Wilbur had built a cart road to within twenty feet of the summit and cleared a path to the top (Dwight, 1822), enough to "let him carry salt to his cattle who had a habit of wandering up there." 100 feet below the summit he planted "foxtail grass" which was high as a man's waist in a year's time. Also see site 10, Wilbur's Clearing and site 11 Notch Road Gate-Bellows Pipe Trail.

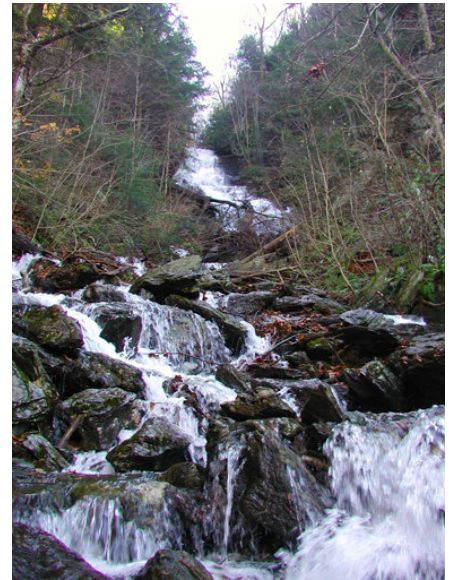


Fig. 24 Money Brook Falls

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes

Site 20, Roaring Brook and Goodell Hollow

Location: Roaring Brook Road, Williamstown, off US Route 7

Description: Deep in the cleft of the mountain, along Roaring Brook (1,080' elev.) this picturesque route travel along the brook then ascends steeply up Stony Ledge to Roaring Brook Trail.

Seasonal Accessibility: This site is accessible year-round to foot and mountain bike uses. A roadside parking lot can accommodate about 10 cars.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Agricultural history.** At this found the N. Goodell house site (c1867-1899) and D. Collins or W. Collins house site (c1867-post 1925) and a mill site. These farms were once part of a village in mid-late 1800s that included a school house located neared to Route 7.
2. **Stony Ledge Ski Trail.** Built by the CCC in 1936 this trail ascends to the Stony Ledge vista.
3. **Goodell Hollow (private, Mount Greylock Ski Club)** Roaring Brook Road continues up from the parking lot to Goodell

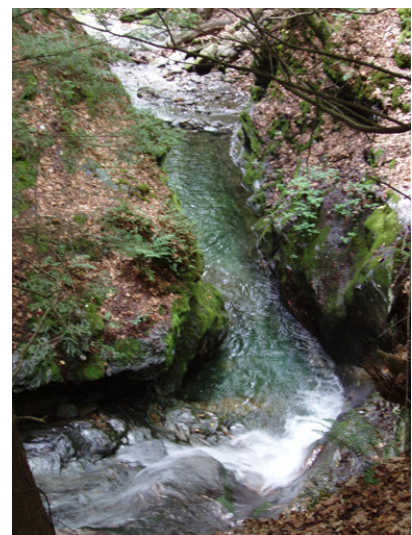


Fig. 25 Roaring Brook

Hollow a private, cooperative ski area that has been operated by the Mount Greylock Ski Club since 1938. There is no public access to this property. The Mount Greylock Ski Club raised funds for the purchase of Thiel Farm in Greylock Glen in 1936, and donated it to the state for public access, as the relocated terminus of the Thunderbolt Trail. Mount Greylock Ski Club is a formative remnant of the regional ski boom in the 1930s.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes

Site 25, Cheshire Harbor Trail

Location: End of West Mountain Road, Adams

Description: One of the more popular trailheads on Mount Greylock it is in use year-round. Peak usage occurs annually during the Greylock Ramble on Columbus Day with 1,500-3,000 hikers.

Seasonal Accessibility: Accessible by vehicle year-round. Both day-use and overnight parking is permitted at this trailhead lot, 20+ car capacity.

Interpretive Significance:

1. **Agricultural history.** Site of the Scholtz Farm. Related to site 24 Greylock Glen, hidden throughout this area are remnants of the agricultural past, stonewalls, foundations overgrown and succeeding fields and old farm roads.
2. **Ski history.** In 1933 the Pittsfield YMCA initiated skiing on Greylock by trekking up and down the Cheshire Harbor Trail. The mount Greylock Ski Club sponsored several races here in 1933-34.
3. **Former Summit Road.** A former 19th century coach road to Adams passed through here as well as the Cheshire Harbor Trail which was improved to as a trail and vehicular access to the summit in 1903. In the early day of the reservation this was perhaps the most popular approach to the summit. Hikers would take the Berkshire Street Railway trolley to Cheshire Harbor on the state road and hike up along this route.

Interpretive Modes: *Personal:* guided hikes